

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of applying a decorative element to a window covering or a window covering film, the method comprising the steps of:

providing decorative element data corresponding to a decorative element;

dividing the selected decorative element data into a first portion corresponding to a first window covering section of the window covering or window covering film and a second portion corresponding to a second window covering section of the window covering or window covering film; and

physically applying the decorative element according to the decorative element data [[to]]onto at least one of the window covering or a window covering film in a retail store~~[[.]]~~;

wherein the decorative element appears continuous across the first window covering section and the second window covering section when the window covering is in either an open position or a closed position.

2. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the decorative element is one of a color, image, pattern, and texture.

3. (canceled) The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of providing decorative element data includes selecting the decorative element form a database.

4. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of providing decorative element data includes scanning a sample provided by a customer.

5. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of providing decorative element data includes reading an electronic file provided by the user.

6. (original) The method of Claim 1, further including the step of displaying the decorative element applied to the window covering on a monitor.

7. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of physically applying the decorative element includes printing the decorative element onto a portion of the window covering.

8. (currently amended) A method for applying a decorative element to a window covering, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a searchable data compilation of decorative elements on a storage device;
displaying available decorative elements to a customer;
obtaining a selection from the user, the selection comprising at least one of the decorative elements contained in the data compilation;
~~displaying images of the selected decorative element applied to the window covering;~~
distributing the selection across a surface of the window covering;
dividing the selection between a first window covering section and a second window covering section;
rendering the selection onto an image of the window covering; and
physically applying the selected decorative element to the window covering;
wherein the selection appears continuous across the first window covering section and the second window covering section when the window covering is in either an open position or a closed position.

9. (original) The method of Claim 8 wherein the selected decorative element is one of a color, an image, a pattern, and a texture.

10. (previously presented) The method of Claim 8 wherein the selected decorative element is physically applied to the window covering in a retail store.

11. (original) The method of Claim 8, further including the step of scanning a sample.

12. (original) The method of Claim 8, further including the step of accessing a file containing the searchable data compilation.

13. (original) The method of Claim 8, further comprising the step of storing the searchable data compilation on a removable storage medium.

14. (original) The method of Claim 13 wherein the removable storage medium is a CD-ROM.

15. (currently amended) The method of Claim 8 wherein the step of displaying images includes rendering at least one decorative ~~material~~ element onto a computer model of the window covering.

16. (canceled) A system for applying a decorative element to a window covering in a retail location, the system comprising:

a computer device configured to store and recall a decorative element data;
a printer coupled to the computer and configured to print a selected decorative element onto the window covering.

17. (currently amended) The system of Claim 16 18, further ~~including~~ comprising a scanner configured to spectrophotometrically measure a color sample.

18. (currently amended) A system for applying a decorative element to a window covering in a retail location, the system comprising:

a computer device configured to store and recall a decorative element data;
a printer coupled to the computer and configured to print a selected decorative element onto the window covering;
window covering data to display images of the selected decorative element applied to the window covering;
means for user selection of a window covering sample; and

a program for ~~mapping the selected decorative element onto appropriate portions of an image of the selected window covering sample for distributing the selected decorative element across a surface of the window covering, dividing the selected decorative element between a first window covering section and a second window covering section, and rendering the selected decorative element onto an image of the window covering to provide a visual image of the selected decorative element on the selected window covering sample to the user~~[[.]]; wherein the selection appears continuous across the first window covering section and the second window covering section when the window covering is in either an open position or a closed position.

19. (currently amended) The system of Claim ~~16~~ 28 wherein the computer is coupled to a network or an Internet server so that the decorative element data from a remote location is searchable or recallable.

20. (currently amended) A The system of Claim 18, further for applying a decorative element to a window covering in a retail location, the system comprising[[(:)]]
~~a computer device configured to store and recall a decorative element data;~~
~~a printer coupled to the computer and configured to print a selected decorative element onto the window covering; and~~
a magazine configured to feed window covering elements to the printer.

21. (currently amended) A The system of Claim 18, further for applying a decorative element to a window covering in a retail location, the system comprising[[(:)]]
~~a computer device configured to store and recall a decorative element data;~~
~~a printer coupled to the computer and configured to print a selected decorative element onto the window covering; and~~
a curing apparatus configured to cure the selected decorative element.

22. (currently amended) The system of Claim ~~16~~ 18, wherein the decorative element is one of a color, pattern, image, and texture.

23. (currently amended) A system for customizing a window covering, the system comprising:

a memory storage device configured to store and recall decorative element data files and textual information coordinated with the decorative element data files;

a display configured to display the decorative element data files in response to actions of a user to recreate a representative image of a decorative element sample;

an input device for accepting choices from the user, the choices comprising at least one selected decorative element;

a processor configured to implement data manipulation and operate the display, input device, and storage device;

a distributing program configured to distribute the at least one selected decorative element across a surface of the window covering;

a dividing program configured to divide the at least one selected decorative element between a first window covering section and a second window covering section;

a rendering program configured to [[for]] render[[ing]] decorative elements chosen by the user; the at least one selected decorative element onto an image of the window covering;
and

a printer configured to physically apply [[a]] the at least one selected decorative element to the window covering[.];

wherein the selection appears continuous across the first window covering section and the second window covering section when the window covering is in either an open position or a closed position.

24. (currently amended) The system of Claim 23, wherein the at least one decorative element is one of a color, image, pattern, and texture.

25. (currently amended) The system of Claim 23 further ~~including~~ comprising a scanner configured to spectrophotometrically measure a color sample.

26. (currently amended) The system of Claim 25, wherein ~~each~~ the color sample contains RGB values corresponding to ~~the~~ an actual spectrophoto[[]]metrically measured sample.

27. (currently amended) The system of Claim 23 further comprising:
window covering data to display images of the selected decorative element applied to
the window covering on a monitor; and
~~a program for mapping the selected decorative element onto appropriate portions of
an image of a selected window covering sample for providing a visual image of the selected
decorative element on the selected window covering to the user.~~

28. (new) The system of Claim 18 wherein the decorative element data is stored
on a remote computer.